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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~NO.: **CI-7779** March 15, 1961

SUBJECT: Peru-Ecuador Boundary Dispute

REF: Amembassy Quito G-114 of January 19, and Amembassy Buenos Aires D-922 of January 27, 1961

TO: BUENOS AIRES, GUAYAQUIL, LIMA, QUITO, RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTIAGO

In response to a request from the Embassy, Quito, for a study of the events which led to the signing of the Rio Protocol, the Department forwarded to Lima, Quito, and Rio de Janeiro under cover of CA-4889 of December 1, 1960, copies of a manuscript which reviewed the Ecuadorean-Peruvian boundary dispute during the period from 1936 to 1942. Additional copies of this manuscript are transmitted under cover of this instruction for the use of the Embassies at Buenos Aires and Santiago and for the Consulate General, Guayaquil.

It is noted that this draft study was prepared from Departmental records by Dr. Bryce Wood of the Social Science Research Council. The Department has not felt that Dr. Wood's manuscript could properly be cleared for public release at this time due to the sensitive situation existing relative to the boundary issue. However, Dr. Wood has consented to the limited use of the study by the Department of State for background information. Although Dr. Wood is known to the Department's Historical office as a reputable scholar, the opinions expressed in his manuscript are naturally his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department. As it is possible that certain parts of the enclosed study would be prejudicial to U.S. relations with Peru if released under present conditions, the manuscript is classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~".

The Embassy, Quito, also requested copies of the map drawn by Dr. Wood, referred to on page 7 of the manuscript, showing the 1936 status quo line. This map is not included in the Department's copy of the study. However, it is believed that the following paragraph from a background memorandum prepared by the Office of the Legal Adviser will fulfill the Embassy's needs:

"During conferences held in Lima before the respective delegations left for Washington, the two countries agreed to

recognize a

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recognize a status quo line marking the actual effective occupation of each at that date... A Mixed Commission was also appointed to study the border zone, particularly along the coastal strip. The status quo line of 1936... was declared not to affect the rights of either contestant but only to indicate the advanced line of actual possession of each. Both sides agreed to respect this line while negotiations were going on and not to advance beyond it. The status quo line of 1936 nevertheless served to indicate to the world and to the two disputants how the territory in dispute was actually divided between them so far as effective occupation was concerned. Allowing for inaccuracies in existing maps, says McBride in his Final Report, 1949, Ch. II, Page 17 a, "the Status Quo Line of 1936 actually became, with relatively minor exceptions, the new boundary determined by the Protocol of 1942."

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Enclosures stated to:

American Embassy Buenos Aires
American Embassy Santiago
American Consulate General Guayaquil

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